

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A consumable electrode arc welding method in which two or more wires are fed and energized in a torch and the torch is moved in ~~the~~ a first welding ~~preceding~~ direction to thereby form weld beads for welding, comprising:

a first step of stopping the feeding and energization of all wires except for a specified wire of the two or more wires at a welding termination position; and

a second step of moving the torch a given amount from the welding termination position to a position existing not only in ~~the opposite~~ a second direction opposite to the first welding ~~preceding~~ direction but also in a third direction ~~allowing the torch to part apart~~ away from the weld beads.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A consumable electrode arc welding method as set forth in Claim 1, further including a third step of moving the torch substantially parallel with the weld beads in the first welding ~~preceding~~ direction from the position of the torch moved in the second step.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A consumable electrode arc welding method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a wire to be specified in a torch is a wire positioned ~~so as to move most precedingly in the torch~~ forward of the other wire(s) when moving the torch in the first welding ~~preceding~~ direction.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): A consumable electrode arc welding method as set forth in claim 1, wherein, in the second and third steps, using the wire specified in the torch, welding is executed under a welding termination time welding condition different from a welding condition used until then.

Claim 5 (Original): A consumable electrode arc welding method as set forth in Claim 4, wherein, in the second and third steps, a crater processing welding for filling in a crater formed in a welding termination portion is executed under the welding termination time welding condition.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A consumable electrode arc welding method as set forth in claim 2, further including: a fourth step of stopping the feeding and energization of the wires at the position of the torch moved in the third step; a fifth step of checking all wires for ~~deposition~~ sticking on the weld beads; and, a sixth step of, when a ~~deposited~~ stuck wire is detected in the fifth step, resuming energization on at least the ~~deposition~~ detected stuck wire.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A consumable electrode arc welding method as set forth in claim 3, further including: a fourth step of stopping the feeding and energization of the wires at the position of the torch moved in the third step; a fifth step of checking all wires for ~~deposition~~ sticking on the weld beads; and, a sixth step of, when a ~~deposited~~ stuck wire is detected in the fifth step, resuming energization on at least the ~~deposition~~ detected stuck wire.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A consumable electrode arc welding method as set forth in claim 4, further including: a fourth step of stopping the feeding and energization of the wires at the position of the torch moved in the third step; a fifth step of checking all wires for ~~deposition~~ sticking on the weld beads; and, a sixth step of, when a ~~deposited~~ stuck wire is detected in the fifth step, resuming energization on at least the ~~deposition~~ detected stuck wire.